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Office Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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TO :

DATE: 15 December 1951

FROM :

SUBJECT: Comments on SE-20: "The Probable Consequences of Certain Possible US Courses of Action with Respect to Communist China and Korea", draft dated 14 December 1951.

1. This draft does not deal with the probable consequences of developments in Korea and the Far East on Western Europe. I think that this is a serious omission which makes the report both incomplete and misleading. The possible US courses of action outlined in this draft would probably have important political, psychological and military repercussions on Western Europe which would affect US and NATO programs and the position of the US in its relations with the countries of Western Europe. On balance, I should guess that these US courses of action would damage US interests in Europe, possibly very seriously. The statement that "an increase of Soviet commitments in the Far East would reduce Soviet capabilities elsewhere" (page 8, lines 6 and 7), while technically correct, is misleading.

2. I suggest one of the following:

- 9-12 and page 8, lines 17-20:
- a. An examination of the effects of possible developments in Korea and China on the global interests of the USSR. This would treat with the following proposition contained on page 6, lines 27-28: "At every stage, however, the Kremlin would probably endeavor to keep open the possibility of ending the Korean conflict by political negotiation if the global interests of the USSR would be served by disengagement in Korea."
 - b. An examination of the impact of possible developments in Korea and China on Western Europe.

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